

verifying that said certain process is capable of providing said at least one predefined need under simulated conditions expected during a production application, while meeting certain cost and timing requirements;

verifying and demonstrating that said technology is functionally sound and has a certain quality value and cost value; and

implementing multiple applications of said technology in manufacturing operations.

Claim 22 (new)

The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of performing a milestone review meeting to insure that certain project issues have been accomplished after each step.

Claim 23 (new)

The method of claim 21 wherein said review of technology includes identifying a best in class technology and a state-of-the-art technology.

Claim 24 (new)

The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of:
convening committees on a regular basis to assess best in class technologies and state-of-the-art technologies.

Claim 25 (new)

The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of:
establishing logistic metrics relating to project performance and budgeting by

manufacturing wants.

Claim 26 (new)

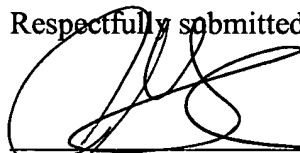
The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:
conducting time and data management meetings.

Claim 27 (new)

The method of claim 26 wherein said manufacturing project relates to the production of
an automotive vehicle.

If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is invited to
call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 865-9588.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and Response to Office Action are being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as First Class Mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this 18 day of November 2002.

By: _____

Steve Clemmons

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